Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

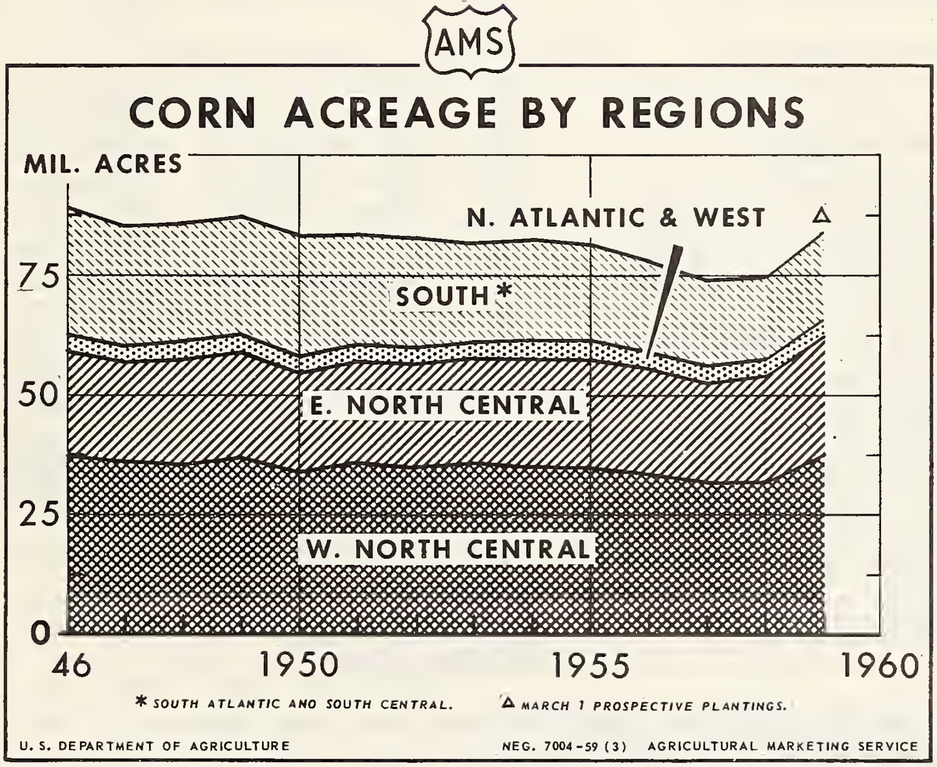
1.941
S8F32

April 1959
FOR RELEASE
APR. 7, P. M.

The FEED SITUATION

LIBRARY
CURRENT SERIAL RECORD
APR 9 - 1959
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FdS-174



Farmers are planning a 9 million acre increase in corn planting this year, sharply reversing the downward trend that has been underway for a number of years. Nearly all this increase will be in the North Central States, where 1959 prospective acreage is the largest since 1936. A slight increase also is in prospect in the South, but acreage there will be only about half what it was 20 years ago.

Published bimonthly by
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Table 1.- Statistical Summary

Item	Unit	1957 Feb.	1957 Mar.	1958 Feb.	1958 Mar.	1959 Jan.	1959 Feb.	1959 Mar.
PRICES								
		Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
Grains and Hay								
Corn, No. 3 Yellow, Chicago	Bushel	1.28	1.29	1.13	1.16	1.17	1.18	1/1.21
Price received by farmers, U. S.	Bushel	1.19	1.20	.958	1.00	1.02	1.04	1.06
Oats, No. 1 White, Chicago	Bushel	.802	.794	.736	.752	.709	.688	1/.694
No. 2 White, Minneapolis	Bushel	.737	.724	.644	.659	.633	.631	1/.637
Price received by farmers, U. S.	Bushel	.728	.720	.611	.616	.590	.599	.590
Barley, No. 3, Minneapolis	Bushel	1.21	1.22	1.18	1.19	1.14	1.18	1/1.14
Price received by farmers, U. S.	Bushel	1.03	1.03	.867	.851	.911	.922	.905
Grain sorghums, price received by farmers, U.S.	100 pounds	2.09	2.07	1.62	1.67	1.73	1.75	1.76
Wheat, No. 2 Hard Winter, Kansas City	Bushel	2.34	2.34	2.20	2.27	2.00	2.03	1/2.06
Hay, No. 1 Alfalfa, baled, Kansas City	Ton	35.00	34.00	27.50	28.00	30.00	29.00	29.00
Price received by farmers, baled, U. S.	Ton	22.50	21.60	18.70	18.50	19.30	19.30	18.80
Byproduct Feeds (bulk)								
Standard bran, Minneapolis	Ton	39.25	40.75	30.75	37.00	40.90	37.25	39.90
Buffalo	Ton	45.50	45.75	38.60	43.40	45.75	42.75	44.60
Price paid by farmers, U. S.	100 pounds	3.08	3.06	2.71	2.86	3.17	3.10	3.08
Standard middlings, Minneapolis	Ton	38.50	40.25	30.00	36.50	40.25	37.40	40.30
Buffalo	Ton	43.90	44.75	38.50	42.90	46.00	43.40	45.20
Price paid by farmers, U. S.	100 pounds	3.13	3.11	2.76	2.90	3.21	3.15	3.13
Soybean meal, 44 percent protein, Chicago	Ton	53.80	53.75	53.90	61.25	68.75	59.90	60.10
Price paid by farmers, U. S.,44% protein	100 pounds	3.89	3.82	3.72	3.95	4.47	4.39	4.25
Cottonseed meal, 41 percent protein, Memphis	Ton	52.25	51.05	56.50	59.60	69.50	62.90	60.60
Price paid by farmers, U. S., 41% protein	100 pounds	3.91	3.88	3.78	3.90	4.31	4.36	4.29
Linseed meal, 36 percent protein, Minneapolis	Ton	51.40	55.00	47.75	50.90	76.00	74.25	73.20
Peanut meal, 45 percent protein, S. E. milling points	Ton	46.60	44.45	52.10	58.90	59.60	59.90	59.40
Gluten feed, 21 percent protein, Chicago	Ton	45.00	42.00	36.00	40.00	47.00	46.00	43.20
Hominy feed, Chicago	Ton	43.00	40.20	36.25	38.50	44.10	42.10	41.00
Brewers' dried grains, 24 percent protein, Milwaukee	Ton	47.40	42.75	41.90	38.75	48.40	46.90	44.70
Distillers' dried grains, 28 percent protein, Cincinnati	Ton	56.50	55.50	50.00	50.00	51.75	51.25	51.00
Tankage digester, 60 percent protein, Chicago	Ton	75.70	74.10	85.40	103.20	115.30	111.25	104.00
Meat meal, 50 percent protein, Chicago	Ton	67.95	66.00	81.00	97.90	110.95	105.60	100.50
Fish meal, 60 percent protein, Buffalo	Ton	132.25	132.25	126.60	124.75	2/188.50	2/187.40	2/177.20
Alfalfa meal, 17 percent dehydrated, Kansas City	Ton	63.00	62.00	42.10	40.60	57.00	61.00	61.00
Mixed dairy feed, 16 percent protein, price paid by farmers, U. S.	100 pounds	3.83	3.80	3.56	3.60	3.75	3.75	3.74
Laying mash, price paid by farmers, U. S.	100 pounds	4.51	4.48	4.29	4.38	4.53	4.52	4.49
Scratch feed, price paid by farmers, U. S.	100 pounds	4.11	4.11	3.89	3.93	3.90	3.89	3.89
Molasses, blackstrap, New York	Gallon	.288	.283	.180	.180	.160	.160	.160
INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES								
		Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
Feed grains, price received by farmers, U. S.	1947-49=100	74	75	60	62	63	64	65
Eleven principal high-protein feeds, wholesale prices at terminal markets	1947-49=100	79	77	77	84	97	91	88
Five oilseed meals	1947-49=100	78	77	77	84	97	90	88
Tankage, meat scraps, and fish meal	1947-49=100	75	75	81	94	106	103	100
Gluten feed, brewers' dried grains, and distillers' dried grains	1947-49=100	86	82	74	78	88	86	83
Feed, price paid by farmers, U. S.	1947-49=100	90	90	83	85	87	87	87
LIVESTOCK-FEED PRICE RATIOS 1/								
(March average)								
Hog-corn, Chicago 2/ 1948-57= 12.3	Bushel	13.5	13.4	17.8	18.2	14.2	13.2	1/13.3
Hog-corn, U. S. farm price 1948-57= 13.1	Bushel	14.1	14.1	20.6	20.3	16.1	14.8	14.5
Beef-steer-corn, Chicago 3/ 1948-57= 16.4	Bushel	15.9	16.6	23.6	24.3	23.7	23.3	1/23.4
Milk-feed, U. S. 1948-57= 1.24	Pound	1.37	1.32	1.48	1.41	1.47	1.43	1.37
Butterfat-feed, U. S. 1948-57= 21.8	Pound	21.1	21.2	24.8	24.4	23.9	23.7	23.9
Egg-feed, U. S. 1948-57= 10.1	Pound	9.2	8.6	11.0	12.0	10.7	10.4	9.9
Farm chicken-feed, U. S. 1948-57= 6.3	Pound	4.0	4.1	4.6	4.9	3.8	3.8	3.9
Commercial broiler-feed, U. S. 1948-57= 5.4	Pound	3.9	4.0	4.2	4.4	3.5	3.5	3.5
Turkey-feed, U. S. 1948-57= 8.8	Pound	7.1	7.2	7.4	8.0	7.0	7.3	6.9

1/ Average for four weeks ended March 27. 2/ Beginning October 1958 price quoted f.o.b. Buffalo, formerly f.o.b. Eastern Seaboard. 3/ Units of corn or other concentrate ration equal in value to 100 pounds of hog or beef-steer, one pound of chicken, butterfat, or milk, or one dozen eggs. 4/ Based on packer and shipper purchases of hogs and No. 3 Yellow corn. 5/ Based on price of beef-steers sold out of first hands for slaughter, and No. 3 Yellow corn.

Prices compiled from Wall Street Jounral, Chicago edition, Minneapolis Daily Market Record, Kansas City Grain Market Review, and reports of the Agricultural Marketing Service.

THE FEED SITUATION

Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board, April 1, 1959

CONTENTS

Page

Summary 3
Prospects For 1959-60
  Farmers Plan 12 Percent Increase in Corn Acreage 4
  Feed Grain Supply for 1959-60 Expected to Equal or Exceed 1958-59 Record 7
  Smaller Hay Acreage in Prospect 9
  Further Increase in Livestock in Prospect 9
  Price Supports for 1959 Feed Grains 9-11
Current Situation
  Feed Prices Near Level of a Year Ago 11
  Corn Marketings of Higher Quality 11
  Supplies and Utilization of Protein Feeds 13
  Price Support Activity and CCC Sales 13-15
  Dairy Cow Feeding Rate Reaches One Ton Per Year 15
Seasonal Variation in Feed Grain Prices in Postwar Years 17
Regional Changes in Corn Acreage 21
Index of Tables 27

SUMMARY

Farmers will increase the total acreage planted to feed grains in 1959 by about 6 million acres, if they carry out their March 1 intentions. Production of feed grains on this prospective acreage probably would total around 150-155 million tons with a normal growing season and allowing for the upward trend in yield per acre. This would be only a little below the bumper production of 158 million tons in 1958, when yields of each of the four feed grains set new records. This would result in another record feed concentrate supply for 1959-60, since carryover of feed grains is expected to be up by 15 or 16 million tons to a new high of about 75 million tons.

An increase of 9 million acres is in prospect for corn, the sharpest in more than 20 years. Nearly all of this increase is in the important midwestern producing States. The increase reflects, in part, the discontinuance of acreage allotments and the Corn Acreage Reserve Program. Farmers also apparently

are shifting some land to corn from oats, soybeans, hay and sorghum. The prospective acreage of oats for 1959 is 6 percent less than in 1958 and 18 percent below the 10-year average and for sorghums, 3 percent below last year, but well above average. Planned barley acreage is 5 percent above 1958 and also much larger than average.

The Department of Agriculture announced a minimum national average support for 1959 corn at $1.12 per bushel, based on 90 percent of the 3 year average price. This is well below the 1958 support of $1.36 per bushel for complying producers, but a little above the average support rate of $1.06 to noncomplying farmers. The national average support rate for 1959 oats is 50 cents per bushel, 11 cents lower than in 1958; for barley, 77 cents per bushel, down 16 cents and for sorghum grain, $1.52 per 100 pounds, 31 cents less than in 1958.

Feed grain prices have been generally stable in the past 2 or 3 months, while prices of most of the byproduct feeds have declined. In the same period last year, prices of feed grains and byproduct feeds advanced. In late March, market prices of feed grains were generally near a year earlier, while a number of the important high-protein prices averaged a little lower. Prices of both feed grains and high-protein feeds have been higher this past winter than a year earlier. But, they are not expected to show as much strength this spring and summer and probably will average lower than in the same period of 1958.

Farmers placed much more oats under price support from the 1958 crop than from the 1957 crop, but less barley and sorghum grain. Reductions for barley and sorghum grain, in spite of the bigger crops, was due at least in part to exports of grain from the "free" market supply under the payment-in-kind program. A total of 302 million bushels of corn was placed under price support through February, much more than in the same period last year. About 41 percent of this total was placed under support by noncomplying farmers at the national average rate of $1.06 per bushel. The total quantity of feed grains placed under price support so far this year is 14 percent above a year earlier, indicating another record quantity for the 1958-59 season.

PROSPECTS FOR 1959-60

Farmers Plan 12 Percent Increase In Corn Acreage for 1959, Less Oats and Sorghums

Farmers planting intentions of March 1 indicate that the acreage of feed grains in 1959 will total about 152 million acres (including sorghums for grain only), 6 million more than in 1958 and slightly above the 1953-57 average (table 2). This increase is the result of a 12 percent increase in the prospective corn acreage and a 5 percent increase in barley, which more than offset prospective reductions in acreages of oats and grain sorghums.

Table 2 .- Feed grains: Planted acreage, yield and production,
United States, average 1953-57, annual 1950-59

Year	Corn 1/			Oats			Barley		
	Planted acreage	Yield per planted acre	Production	Planted acreage	Yield per planted acre	Production	Planted acreage	Yield per planted acre	Production
	Mil. acres	Bu.	Mil. bu.	Mil. acres	Bu.	Mil. bu.	Mil. acres	Bu.	Mil. bu.
Average 1953-57	79.4	41.2	3,275	45.0	29.0	1,306	14.4	25.6	368
1950	82.9	37.1	3,075	45.0	30.4	1,369	13.0	23.3	304
1951	83.3	35.1	2,926	41.0	31.2	1,278	10.8	23.8	257
1952	82.2	40.0	3,292	42.3	28.8	1,217	9.2	24.8	228
1953	81.6	39.3	3,210	43.2	26.7	1,153	9.6	25.7	247
1954	82.2	37.2	3,058	46.9	30.1	1,410	14.7	25.7	379
1955	81.1	39.8	3,230	47.5	31.6	1,503	16.3	24.6	401
1956	78.2	44.2	3,455	44.7	26.0	1,163	14.8	25.4	377
1957	73.9	46.3	3,422	42.6	30.6	1,301	16.5	26.4	437
1958 2/	74.7	50.9	3,800	38.4	37.0	1,422	16.3	28.9	470
1959 3/	83.9	47.5	3,985	36.0	31.3	1,126	17.1	25.6	438

Year	Sorghum grain			Total four feed grains			
				Acreage			
	Acreage harvested for grain	Yield per acre	Production	Planted 4/	Harvested	Yield per planted acre 5/	Production
	Mil. acres	Bu.	Mil. bu.	Mil. acres	Mil. acres	Tons	Mil. tons
Average 1953-57	11.9	22.9	273	150.7	139.6	.86	129.1
1950	10.3	22.6	234	151.3	142.6	.81	121.8
1951	8.5	19.1	163	143.6	133.9	.79	113.1
1952	5.3	17.0	91	139.1	131.5	.86	119.7
1953	6.3	18.4	116	140.7	133.0	.84	117.5
1954	11.7	20.1	235	155.5	145.8	.80	123.9
1955	12.9	18.9	243	157.8	146.2	.83	130.9
1956	9.3	22.1	206	147.1	131.6	.89	130.2
1957	19.5	28.9	564	152.6	141.8	.94	142.9
1958 2/	16.8	36.7	615	146.2	136.9	1.08	157.7
1959 3/	6/15.0	28.0	425	152.0	---	1.00	152.0

1/ For all purposes.

2/ Preliminary.

3/ Indicated 1959 acreage based on March 1 intentions of farmers. Production computed on the basis of the prospective plantings, assuming 1954-58 average yields per planted acre by States with corn and sorghum grain yields adjusted for trend.

4/ Includes sorghum acreage harvested for grain.

5/ Computed from data on production and acreage planted. Changes in yield reflect changes in acreage of the four grains and distribution by States, as well as, changes in the yield of the individual grains.

6/ Unofficial estimate based on total acreage and acreage harvested for grain in recent years.

Feed crop acreages this year have been influenced by changes in the Soil Bank Program. The total acreage in the Conservation Reserve Program increased from 10 million in 1958 to 23 million in 1959. But discontinuance of the acreage reserve program released approximately 17 million acres of cropland which was in the 1958 program.

Nearly 84 million acres of corn are in prospect for 1959, 9 million acres or 12 percent more than in 1958. This would bring total corn acreage to the highest level in 10 years. Practically all of this increase will be in the North Central region. This sharp increase in corn acreage reflects discontinuance of the acreage reserve program, which included 6.7 million acres of corn in 1958, and the acreage allotment program. Also, it appears that farmers are shifting some land from oats, soybeans and sorghum to corn.

While it is too early to forecast 1959 production, 1954-58 yields on the prospective acreages by States would produce a 1959 crop of 3.7 billion bushels. Corn yields, however, have trended upward rather sharply since World War II. If adjustment is made for this upward trend in yield, a normal growing season in 1959 would result in a crop of around 4 billion bushels. This would be a little above the record crop of 1958 and more than a fifth larger than the 1953-57 average.

Farmers are planning to reduce acreages seeded to oats and sorghums. The 36 million acres of oats in prospect for 1959 is 2.4 million less than the small acreage planted last year and 9 million less than the 1953-57 average. There has been no pronounced upward trend in per-acre yields of oats. Yields per acre, by States, equal to the 1954-58 average on this prospective acreage would give a 1959 crop of 1,126 million bushels, nearly 300 million bushels below the big crop last year.

The 1959 barley acreage will be 5 percent larger than in 1958 and nearly a fifth larger than the 1953-57 average, if farmers carry out their March 1 plans. Favorable soil moisture conditions have encouraged larger barley acreage in most areas. Record acreages are in prospect for the important malting-barley-producing States of the mid-west. A crop of 438 million bushels would be produced with 1954-58 average yields, by States, on this prospective acreage for 1959.

A reduction of about 3 percent is in prospect for the total acreage of sorghums as farmers in the western Corn Belt and some of the southern States appear to be turning from sorghums to corn. In the two major producing States, Texas and Kansas, slightly larger acreages are in prospect. With about the same relationship between total acreage and acreage harvested for grain as in recent years and with 1954-58 average yield, by States, a crop of about 368 million bushels would be produced in 1959. Adjusting for the upward trend in yield of recent years would bring total production to around 400 to 450 million bushels. This would be much smaller than the big crops of 1957 and 1958, but much larger than any crop prior to 1957.

Feed Grain Supply for 1959-60 Expected to at Least Equal 1958-59 Record

The total supply of feed grains for the 1959-60 season, based on early March prospects, is expected to at least equal the record supply in 1958-59, if not exceed it. Total 1959 production of feed grains, with 1954-58 average yields (adjusted for trend) on the prospective plantings, would be about 152 million tons, only a little below the record crop last year (table 4). Such a reduction would be more than offset by a prospective increase of around 15 or 16 million tons in the carryover, giving a total feed grain supply of around 227 million tons,10 million tons above the record supply for 1958-59.

Supplies of high-proteins and other byproduct feeds for 1959-60 probably will be a little larger than this year, continuing the upward trend that has been underway in recent years. While the 1959 prospective soybean acreage is a little smaller than in 1958, a large carryover of soybeans is in prospect which would enable crushers to maintain or increase their level of processing in 1959-60 even with a little smaller crop. Total production of other oilseed meals also should at least equal that of 1958-59. While the prospective acreage of flaxseed is down a little, the cotton acreage reserve program has been discontinued and producers will have an opportunity to substantially increase 1959 cotton plantings. Production of tankage and meat meal probably will increase further in 1959-60 as livestock slaughter is increasing. Based on these early indications another big supply of high-protein feeds is in prospect, probably a little above the 1958-59 supply.

The supply of all feed concentrates for 1959-60, including the feed grains, and the byproduct feeds and wheat and rye for feeding, would total about 257 million tons after adjusting for trends in yields of corn and sorghum grain. Allowing for a further increase of around 4 percent in the number of grain-consuming animal units on farms, the total supply per animal unit would equal the 1958-59 record.

With a normal growing season, another record corn supply is in prospect for 1959-60. The crop would probably total around 4 billion bushels with a normal growing season,and the carryover on October 1 is expected to increase to 1,750 million to 1,800 million bushels. This would mean a total supply around 10 percent over the 5,271-million-bushel supply for 1958-59. On the other hand, a smaller oats supply is in prospect, probably 200 to 300 million bushels below the supply of 1,755 million bushels for 1958-59. Supplies of barley and sorghum grain may be nearer the 1958-59 levels. While a much smaller sorghum grain crop is expected, the carryover into 1959-60 probably will be around 500 million bushels, compared with 309 million carried over on October 1, 1958. This probably would mean another sorghum grain supply of over 900 million bushels. The carryover of barley into 1959-60 is expected to total around 200 million bushels, which would give a total supply about equal to the 1958-59 record of 657 million bushels.

Table 3 .- Planted acreages of feed grains, hay and related crops, 1948-57 average, 1957, 1958 and prospective plantings for 1959

Crop	Average 1948-57	1957	1958	Prospective 1959 1/	1959 as a percentage of: Average	1959 as a percentage of: 1958
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Pct.	Pct.
Corn	81,765	73,947	74,654	83,921	102.6	112.4
Oats	44,028	42,577	38,430	35,998	81.8	93.7
Barley	12,924	16,535	16,268	17,093	132.3	105.1
Sorghum grain 2/	9,784	19,503	16,761	3/15,000	153.3	89.5
Total, 4 feed grains	148,501	152,562	146,113	152,012	102.4	104.0
All sorghums	17,484	26,959	21,176	20,440	116.9	96.5
Wheat	70,093	49,852	56,431	4/58,468	83.4	103.6
Soybeans 5/	16,822	21,912	24,900	23,172	137.7	93.1
Flaxseed	4,969	5,599	4,014	3,678	74.0	91.6
All hay 2/	74,081	73,431	73,033	70,499	95.2	96.5

1/ Based on farmers' acreage intentions on March 1. 2/ Acreage harvested. 3/ Unofficial estimate based on relationship between total acreage and acreage harvested for grain in recent years. 4/ Winter wheat seeded (45,063,000) plus the prospective acreage (13,405,000 acres) for spring wheat. 5/ Grown alone.

Table 4 .- Feed concentrate supplies, total and per animal unit, United States, average 1953-57, annual 1950-59

Season beginning	Feed grains: Carryover 1/	Feed grains: Production 2/	Feed grains: Total domestic supply	Other feed concentrates 3/	Total supply feed concentrates	Grain-consuming animal units 4/	Supply per animal unit
	Mil. tons	Mil. tons	Mil. tons	Mil. tons	Mil. tons	Millions	Tons
Average 1953-57	38.0	129.1	167.1	27.2	194.3	161.4	1.20
1950	30.5	121.8	152.3	26.5	178.8	168.1	1.06
1951	28.6	113.1	141.7	27.5	169.2	167.3	1.01
1952	20.1	119.7	139.8	27.9	167.7	158.8	1.06
1953	27.0	117.5	144.5	27.7	172.2	156.7	1.10
1954	31.7	123.9	155.6	26.2	181.8	161.5	1.13
1955	39.1	130.9	170.0	26.9	196.9	165.6	1.19
1956	43.3	130.2	173.5	26.9	200.4	161.9	1.24
1957	48.9	142.9	191.8	28.5	220.3	161.5	1.36
1958 5/	59.1	157.7	216.8	29.3	246.1	171.5	1.43
1959 6/	75.0	7/152.0	227.0	30.0	257.0	178.0	1.44

1/ Stocks of corn and sorghum grains on October 1, oats and barley on July 1. 2/ Corn for all purposes, oats, barley and sorghum grain. 3/ Imported feed grains and wheat, rye and byproduct feeds fed to livestock. 4/ Grain-consuming animal units fed during October-September feeding season. 5/ Preliminary. 6/ Tentative estimates based on indications in March. 7/ Based on acreage intentions on March 1 and 1954-58 average yields by States adjusted for upward trend in corn and sorghum grain yields.

Smaller Hay Acreage In Prospect

Farmers will reduce their hay acreage about 2.5 million acres in 1959 if they carry out their March 1 plans. The prospective acreage for harvest of 70.5 million is 5 percent below the 10-year average and the smallest since 1939. With 1954-58 average yields, by States, the 1959 crop would total 109 million tons, 10 percent less than last year. But with the big carryover in prospect, a normal growing season would provide ample supplies in most areas.

Further Increase in Livestock Production in Prospect in 1959

Livestock production is expected to continue to expand in 1959. Much of the increase will be in hogs and beef cattle resulting from generally high prices of these livestock relative to feed costs throughout 1958 and into 1959. The number of hogs on farms increased 12 percent during 1958 to 57.2 million head on January 1, 1959, the largest number since 1952. A further increase in hog production is in prospect in 1959. A 13 percent increase in the 1959 spring pig crop is in prospect and some further expansion in the fall crop. The number of cattle on farms increased 3 percent during the past year to equal the 1956 record. Beef cattle numbers increased 7 percent, while the number of dairy cattle declined. Farmers were grain feeding 11 percent more cattle for market on January 1 this year than last and cattle feeding is expected to continue heavy through 1959. A further increase is expected in broiler production, while both turkeys raised and hens on farms in 1959 will exceed 1958. These changes will more than offset a slight reduction expected in chickens raised for laying flock replacement in terms of feed requirements. The number of dairy cows on farms probably will continue their decline of recent years, but they are being fed a record rate per head.

Price Supports for 1959 Feed Grains

Price supports on 1959 crops of the four feed grains were announced by the Department of Agriculture on February 18. The minimum national average support price for corn is $1.12 per bushel, reflecting 90 percent of the preliminary average price during the calendar years 1956-58. The 1959 support price is 6 cents above the support level of $1.06 per bushel to noncomplying corn producers in 1958, but is well below the support of $1.36 per bushel to farmers complying with acreage allotments. About 41 percent of the 1958 corn placed under support through February was produced by noncomplying farmers. The new formula for setting corn price supports was provided for in the Agricultural Act of 1958, subject to approval by producers. Farmers favored the new program by a vote of 71.2 percent in a referendum held in November 1958.

Table 5 .- Feed grains: National average level of price supports, 1951-59

Year	Corn			Oats	Barley	Sorghum grain
	Commercial area		Non-commercial area 2/			
	To compliers	To noncompliers 1/				
	Dollar per bu.	Dollar per bu.	Dollar per bu.	Dollar per bu.	Dollar per bu.	Dollar per cwt.
1951	1.57	---	1.57	0.72	1.11	2.17
1952	1.60	---	1.60	.78	1.22	2.38
1953	1.60	---	1.60	.80	1.24	2.43
1954	1.62	---	1.22	.75	1.15	2.28
1955	1.58	---	1.18	.61	.94	1.78
1956	1.50	1.25	1.24	.65	1.02	1.97
1957	1.40	1.10	1.27	.61	.95	1.86
1958	1.36	1.06	1.02	.61	.93	1.83
1959	3/1.12			.50	.77	1.52

1/ Supports not available to noncomplying farmers prior to 1956.

2/ National average support level for the noncommercial area was the same as in the commercial area in 1951-53. In 1954 it was approximately 67.5 percent of parity; 1955, 65 percent; 1956, 71 percent; 1957, 70 percent and 1958, 58 percent of parity.

3/ Supports to all producers will be based on the national average rate of $1.12 per bushel.

National average price supports were announced for oats at 50 cents per bushel; barley, 77 cents per bushel and sorghum grain, $1.52 per 100 pounds. These support levels compare with 1958 support levels of 61 cents per bushel for oats, 93 cents per bushel for barley and $1.83 per 100 pounds for sorghum grain.

Corn and Oats Price Supports To Be Based on Revised Grade Standards

Eligibility for loans and purchase agreements for corn and oats under the 1959 price-support program will be based on the revised grade standards, which will go into effect on June 1 for oats and October 1 for corn.

The revised standards for corn were announced by the Department of Agriculture on January 16 and for oats on January 23. The major revisions for corn are (1) change in the basic method for determination of moisture content resulting in a net increase of $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1 percent permitted for each grade, but no increase in maximum moisture percentages for each grade, (2) increase in minimum test weight by 2 pounds for No. 1 (from 54 to 56 pounds), and by 1 pound in grades No. 2, 3 and 4 and by 2 pounds for grade 5. The revisions for oats provide for an increase in test weight per bushel for several numerical grades and in the special grade "Heavy Oats". Official grain standards for "Feed Oats" and "Mixed Feed Oats" are to be canceled as of June 1.

CURRENT SITUATION

Feed Prices in March Near Level of a Year Ago

Prices of feed grains and byproduct feeds in March generally averaged near the level for March 1958. Prices of feed grains have been comparatively stable since January, though there has been some strengthening in corn prices. In late March, corn prices at Chicago were a little higher than a year earlier, while market prices of oats and barley were a little lower. Corn prices are not expected to advance during the next few months as they did in 1958 and probably will average lower during April-September this year than last. Prices of oats, barley and sorghum grain also may average somewhat lower this spring and summer than last. Another favorable growing season and the lower support rates for the 1959 crops would be expected to result in at least the usual seasonal decline in prices of these three grains at harvest time.

Prices of high-protein feeds were generally higher this past winter than in the same period of 1957-58. A number of these feeds have been declining in recent months and in late March soybean meal, meat meal and tankage had dropped below a year earlier (table 6). Prices of these feeds during the next few months probably will continue below the same period of 1958 when they were at the highest level in recent years. The price of cottonseed meal remained a little higher than a year earlier in late March, while linseed meal was much higher. Alfalfa meal prices have advanced sharply in the past year, averaging 50 percent higher in the last half of March than a year ago.

Corn Marketings of Higher Quality Than in 1957-58

Receipts of corn at principal markets during December-February this year averaged much better in quality than in the same 3 months of 1957-58. Of the total receipts at 10 principal mid-western markets, 41 percent graded No. 1 or No. 2 compared with only 22.5 percent last year (table 7). This was about the same as the percentage for 1953-57. At the other extreme, only 10 percent of the receipts graded No. 5 or Sample grade compared with about 26 percent last year and 15 percent in 1953-57. The higher quality of receipts this year reflects the good quality of the 1958 crop, in contrast with the high moisture corn harvested in 1957. Market receipts, however, indicate marketings were of lower quality than in 1956-57 when 61 percent of the receipts graded No. 1 or No. 2.

Table 6 .- Prices of specified feed grains and byproduct feeds, bulk, by weeks, January-March 1958 and 1959

Week ended 1/	Corn, No. 3 Yellow 2/		Oats, No. 2 White 2/		Barley, No. 3 2/		Milo, No. 2 Yellow 2/		Middlings, standard	
	Chicago		Minneapolis		Minneapolis		Kansas City		Minneapolis	
	1958	1959	1958	1959	1958	1959	1958	1959	1958	1959
	Dol. per bu.	Dol. per bu.	Dol. per bu.	Dol. per bu.	Dol. per bu.	Dol. per bu.	Dol. per cwt.	Dol. per cwt.	Dol. per ton	Dol. per ton
Jan. 2	1.15	1.13	.631	.628	1.16	1.15	1.79	1.95	28.50	46.00
9	1.14	1.18	.651	.634	1.19	1.15	1.83	1.98	29.00	43.00
16	1.10	1.16	.652	.629	1.18	1.15	1.86	2.03	30.00	40.50
23	1.10	1.17	.620	.635	1.18	1.12	1.88	1.97	30.00	42.50
30	1.09	1.18	.618	.633	1.15	1.12	1.88	2.00	31.00	37.50
Feb. 6	1.12	1.15	.629	.620	1.17	1.16	1.89	1.97	30.50	36.50
13	1.11	1.18	.655	.637	1.20	1.18	1.87	1.99	29.50	39.50
20	1.13	1.19	.649	.635	1.20	1.19	1.90	1.98	30.50	37.00
27	1.15	1.19	.638	.632	1.18	1.17	1.92	1.99	32.50	36.00
Mar. 6	1.16	1.20	.655	.639	1.16	1.14	2.02	2.00	34.50	40.50
13	1.19	1.21	.658	.631	1.18	1.13	2.06	2.00	37.50	38.50
20	1.15	1.22	.651	.637	1.19	1.13	1.99	1.98	38.00	39.00
27	1.16	1.21	.667	.642	1.20	1.16	1.98	2.00	38.00	40.50

Week ended 1/	Gluten feed, 21 percent		Soybean meal, 44 percent		Cottonseed meal 41 percent		Meat meal, 50 percent		Alfalfa meal, 17 percent dehydrated	
	Chicago		Chicago		Memphis		Chicago		Kansas City	
	1958	1959	1958	1959	1958	1959	1958	1959	1958	1959
	Dol. per ton	Dol. per ton	Dol. per ton	Dol. per ton	Dol. per ton	Dol. per ton	Dol. per ton	Dol. per ton	Dol. per ton	Dol. per ton
Jan. 2	34.00	46.00	51.00	69.00	53.25	67.00	69.25	112.50	43.00	51.00
9	34.00	46.00	50.50	67.00	53.50	68.00	72.25	113.75	42.00	52.00
16	36.00	46.00	49.50	69.50	53.75	70.00	74.25	107.50	41.50	54.00
23	36.00	48.00	51.50	71.00	54.00	72.00	76.00	110.00	41.00	61.00
30	36.00	48.00	51.50	67.50	54.00	68.00	77.25	112.50	40.00	61.00
Feb. 6	36.00	46.00	51.50	63.50	53.50	66.00	77.25	107.50	39.50	61.00
13	36.00	46.00	54.00	61.00	55.50	64.50	78.50	103.75	43.00	61.00
20	36.00	46.00	54.50	59.00	57.50	61.50	81.00	106.25	43.00	61.00
27	36.00	46.00	55.50	56.00	59.50	59.50	87.25	105.00	43.00	61.00
Mar. 6	36.00	46.00	58.50	63.50	60.00	61.50	89.75	102.50	43.00	61.00
13	38.00	44.00	60.50	59.00	60.50	59.50	96.00	101.25	41.00	61.00
20	43.00	42.00	63.00	57.50	59.50	60.00	98.50	98.75	39.50	61.00
27	43.00	42.00	63.00	58.50	58.50	60.50	107.25	98.75	39.00	61.00

1/ Wholesale prices of byproduct feeds are on a bulk basis for the Tuesday within the week. 2/ Average prices weighted by carlot sales.

Domestic Use and Exports of Oilseed Meal Above 1957-58 Level

Domestic consumption of oilseed meal totaled around 5,450,000 tons during October-February, 15 percent more than in the same period of 1957-58, as increased production this year has gone largely into domestic feeding and exports. Exports for the first 4 months (October-January) totaled 219,000 tons, about 50 percent more than in those months of 1957-58. Stocks of oilseed meal at crushers plants increased from 148,000 tons on October 1 to 199,000 tons on March 1, but they were still well below the 343,000 tons on March 1, 1958.

Production of the five oilseed meals totaled 5,696,000 tons during the 5-month period, 17 percent more than in the same period in 1957-58. Imports also have been higher, totaling about 70,000 tons during October-January, 30,000 more than a year earlier.

Production of soybean meal during October-February totaled 4,065,000 tons, 21 percent more than a year earlier. Increased domestic use and exports took most of this increased production, with stocks increasing about 40,000 tons from October 1 to March 1, when they were a little above those of a year earlier. Domestic use of soybean meal, estimated at about 3,775,000 tons for the five months, was up 19 percent from a year earlier. Production of soybean meal for the entire feeding year is expected to total 9.4 million tons, 1.1 million more than in 1957-58. Production of cottonseed meal was up 8 percent during this period while that of linseed meal was slightly lower. Domestic use of cottonseed meal was 10 percent greater, while a little less linseed meal was consumed domestically. March 1 stocks of both cottonseed and linseed meal were substantially smaller this year than last.

Tankage and Meat Meal Production Down 8 Percent in 1958

Production of meat meal and tankage, both important high-protein feeds, declined again in 1957-58 for the third straight year. The 1,376,000 tons produced in 1957-58 was 120,000 tons less than in 1956-57 and 170,000 tons less than in 1955-56. The combined production of the two products continued below the previous year's output in October and November of 1958. But, in December production was about the same as a year earlier, reflecting increasing livestock slaughter. Production of meat meal, including poultry byproduct meal, in the 1957-58 October-September feeding year, totaled slightly over 1.1 million tons, 6 percent smaller than in 1956-57. Tankage production during 1957-58 was 14 percent below the previous year.

Domestic Sales of CCC Corn Much Higher Than in 1957-58; Export Sales Down

Domestic sales of CCC corn during October-February was up sharply from the 14 million bushels of last year rising to over 57 million bushels.

Table 7 .- Corn: Inspected receipts by grades at principal markets, December-February, average 1953-57, annual 1956-57-1958-59 1/

Grade	Average 1953-57		1956-57		1957-58		1958-59	
	Quantity	Percentage of total	Quantity	Percentage of total	Quantity	Percentage of total	Quantity	Percentage of total
	Cars	Pct.	Cars	Pct.	Cars	Pct.	Cars	Pct.
1	5,207	12.7	9,974	20.7	2,832	5.3	3,366	8.4
2	11,593	28.2	19,523	40.4	9,123	17.2	13,001	32.6
3	10,558	25.7	9,752	20.2	12,147	22.9	12,805	32.1
4	7,649	18.6	4,407	9.1	14,995	28.2	6,674	16.7
5	3,441	8.4	1,472	3.0	9,904	18.6	2,064	5.2
Sample	2,644	6.4	3,207	6.6	4,131	7.8	2,003	5.0
Total	41,092	100.0	48,335	100.0	53,132	100.0	39,913	100.0

1/ Chicago, Decatur, Kansas City, Omaha, Peoria, St. Louis, Minneapolis, Indianapolis and Toledo.

Compiled from reports of the Grain Division, Agricultural Marketing Service.

Table 8 .- Receipts of feed grains at primary markets, October-February, average 1953-57, annual 1957-58 - 1958-59

Month	Corn 1/			Oats 1/			Barley 2/		
	Average 1953-57	1957-58	1958-59	Average 1953-57	1957-58	1958-59	Average 1953-57	1957-58	1958-59
	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.
October	37,133	20,521	33,229	6,133	7,279	5,162	12,361	14,071	17,430
November	50,248	34,700	47,306	6,032	5,090	3,672	12,669	12,357	10,747
December	31,640	53,984	29,600	8,023	6,196	7,381	11,118	10,437	13,606
January	31,069	46,017	28,388	8,383	5,418	9,140	12,851	15,980	14,237
February	30,401	29,586	33,166	5,632	4,111	5,741	10,144	11,859	12,376

1/ Chicago, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Duluth, St. Louis, Kansas City, Peoria, Omaha, Indianapolis, Sioux City, St. Joseph, Wichita and Toledo.

2/ Minneapolis, Milwaukee, Chicago and Duluth.

Most of these sales were corn that was determined unsuitable for continued storage. Sales of CCC corn for export totaled only 36 million bushels for the first 5 months of 1958-59, less than half the 75 million bushels sold for export in the same period last year. The decline is principally due to the payment-in-kind program which limits sales of CCC corn to barter, CCC credit and relief transactions. Prior to the payment-in-kind program, which began in May 1958, exports were nearly entirely from CCC stocks.

A substantially larger quantity of sorghum grain was sold by CCC during October-February this year than a year earlier. Domestic sales of sorghums increased from only 1.0 million bushels in 1957-58 to 9 million in 1958-59, while sales for export increased from 12.1 million bushels to 14.8 million. July-February sales of oats and barley were much smaller this year than last, principally as a result of declining exports of CCC grain.

More Corn and Oats Placed Under Price Support; Less Barley And Sorghum Grain

Through February 28, farmers had placed 302 million bushels of corn under price support. Through February 15 last year, only 181 million had been placed under support and through March 15, only 259 million. About 125 million bushels, or 41 percent of the total, was placed under price support by farmers not complying with their acreage allotments for whom the national average rate is $1.06 per bushel. Most of the remaining 177 million was placed under support by complying farmers at the national average support rate of $1.36 per bushel. Farmers have through May 31 in most areas to place corn under price support.

The loan periods for oats, barley and sorghum grain ended February 2. Preliminary figures show that a record 84 million bushels of oats were placed under support, 22 million more than last year. The 107 million bushels of barley and 276 million bushels of sorghum grain placed under support were less than in 1957-58, but above most other years.

The tonnage of the four feed grains going under price support through February totaled 20.1 million tons, 2.4 million more than a year earlier. The total for the entire season is expected to exceed last year's record of 22.9 million tons.

Dairy Cow Feeding Rate Reaches One Ton in 1958

The average quantity of grains and other concentrates fed per dairy cow in the herds of dairy reporters increased 3 percent from 1957 to a new high of 2,003 pounds in 1958. The total quantity fed to all milk cows in the United States was estimated at 19,809,000 tons, slightly less than that of 1957.

The amount of grain and other concentrates fed to milk cows in dairy reporters' herds averaged 7.22 pounds daily in 1958. This compares with 6.94 pounds in 1957 and was almost a pound per day more than the 1947-56

Table 9 .- Feed grains: Quantities placed under price support, 1957 and 1958 crops

Item	Unit	1957 Loan	1957 Purchase agreement	1957 Total	1958 Loan	1958 Purchase agreement	1958 Total
		1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Corn							
Through February 28 1/							
At full support rate 2/	Bushel	107,457	6,557	114,014	170,739	6,212	176,951
At lower support for non-compliance corn	Bushel	64,770	2,607	67,377	123,216	1,815	125,031
Total	Bushel	172,227	9,164	181,391	293,955	8,027	301,982
Total for season							
At full support rate 2/	Bushel	192,801	36,692	229,493			
At lower support for non-compliance corn	Bushel	126,731	12,631	139,362			
Total	Bushel	319,532	49,323	368,855			
Oats 3/	Bushel	47,316	14,387	61,703	69,307	14,939	84,246
Barley 3/	Bushel	119,259	22,828	142,087	86,834	20,267	107,101
Sorghum grain 3/	Bushel	277,249	16,140	293,389	263,513	12,426	275,939
Total	Ton	16,205	1,487	17,692	18,802	1,298	20,100

1/ Loans on corn available through May 31 in most areas. Placed under support through February 15, 1957.

2/ Includes some corn placed under price support in the noncommercial area at a national average support rate of 70 percent of parity.

3/ Loans were available through February 2; 1958 preliminary.

Compiled from reports of Grain Division, Commodity Stabilization Service.

average of 6.23 pounds. The average quantity fed per 100 pounds of milk produced was up slightly over 1957 to 31.4 pounds.

There was little change in the composition of the ration fed to dairy cows from 1957 to 1958. Corn fed as such or in farm mixtures made up 32.1 percent; other grains, 25.7 percent; commercially mixed feeds, 28.8 percent and oilmeals and other byproduct feeds accounted for the remaining 13.4 percent. Commercially mixed feeds comprised over half of the dairy rations fed in the North Atlantic and the West (table 10). By contrast, mixed feeds accounted for only 9 percent of the ration fed to dairy cows in the North Central region.

Table 10.--Rations fed to milk cows: Individual feeds as percentage of the total, by regions, 1958 1/

	North Atlantic	East North Central	West North Central	South Atlantic	South Central	Western	United States
Grains							
Corn	12.1	46.3	45.2	21.1	33.5	2.7	32.1
Oats	14.3	33.8	30.1	8.3	7.4	8.8	21.8
Barley	2.8	1.3	2.7	4.0	2.0	13.6	3.4
Wheat	.4	.3	.2	.7	.8	1.4	.5
Byproduct feeds							
Cottonseed and meal	---	---	.2	2.6	6.5	1.5	1.2
Linseed meal	.4	2.1	.7	.1	---	.5	.9
Soybean meal 2/	1.5	2.4	2.1	1.7	2.0	.1	1.9
Gluten feed or meal	.9	.6	---	---	---	---	.3
Wheat bran, shorts	1.6	2.8	3.2	1.9	5.3	4.4	3.0
Commercial mixed feeds	60.6	6.9	10.7	42.9	37.0	56.3	28.8
All other	5.4	3.5	4.9	16.7	5.5	10.7	6.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

1/ Based on reports of concentrate ration fed to milk cows in herds kept by dairy reporters on May 1 and November 1. 2/ Includes small quantities of soybeans.

Compiled from Milk Production, Crop Reporting Board, AMS, March 1959.

SEASONAL VARIATION IN FEED GRAIN PRICES IN THE POSTWAR YEARS

Seasonal variation in prices of feed grains has changed significantly during the past 2 or 3 decades. Several developments have contributed to this change. Improved and faster growing varieties have shortened the the growing period and have resulted in an earlier seasonal decline in feed grain prices. The nearly complete change from horse power to tractor power in the Corn Belt and the general use of machinery for growing, harvesting, drying and marketing also have concentrated the marketing period and brought it earlier in the season than was the case before World War II. Increased participation in the price support program and large stocks of feed grains held under Government control has had the effect of flattening the seasonal swings in feed grain prices.

Comparisons of the seasonal variation in prices received by farmers for corn in the years since World War II with prewar years were discussed in some detail previously in the Feed Situation 1/.

The results of similar computations of seasonal variation for the other feed grains are shown in table 11, along with those for corn. Computations also have been made of the indexes of seasonal variation of weekly average prices of corn at Chicago and oats and barley at Minneapolis.

Changes in the seasonal patterns in monthly prices of oats, barley and sorghum grain from prewar to postwar years have been similar to those found earlier for corn. In general, the seasonal decline for all the feed grains has started earlier in the season in the postwar years than before World War II and the recovery in prices after reaching the seasonal low has come earlier and more rapid. Also there is less seasonal swing in prices of each of the feed grains from the seasonal low to the seasonal high than before World War II.

The seasonal low in average prices received by farmers for oats was reached in August in both periods. But the rise from the August low has been more rapid in the postwar years with the seasonal high normally being reached in December or January. In the prewar years the seasonal high normally was reached in April or May. The decline in prices after January has been fairly consistent in the postwar years. In 6 of the 9 years, prices in April and May were lower than in January.

The range in the seasonal variation in oats prices in the postwar years was from 92 percent of the yearly average in August to 106 in January. This was slightly less than the range of 15 percentage points for the prewar years.

Seasonal highs in the average prices received by farmers for barley and sorghum grain also have come earlier in the season in postwar years than before World War II. In the 1949-57 period, the price of barley, like oats, reached its seasonal high in January. Prices received by farmers in May averaged about 5 percent below the January peak. In prewar years, May was normally the seasonal high, averaging 4 percent above January. Sorghum grain prices reached an average seasonal peak in May in the period 1949-57, whereas they usually reached a seasonal high from May to July in the period 1933-51. The range in the seasonal swing in prices of barley and sorghum grain has been a little less in postwar years than prewar, but the difference was less pronounced than for corn.

1/ "Seasonal Variation in Corn Prices Less Than Before World War II", Feed Situation, July 1958.

Table 11.- Feed grains: Indexes of seasonal variation in prices 1/

Item	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
						Corn						
Price received by farmers												
1922-41 2/	92	94	95	98	103	106	110	112	110	98	91	91
1949-57	97	97	98	101	104	104	106	105	104	96	92	96
Chicago, No. 3 Yellow												
1921-40 3/	97	95	96	98	101	103	107	108	107	98	95	95
1949-57	99	97	99	101	103	103	105	103	103	94	94	99
						Oats						
Price received by farmers												
1922-41 4/	103	105	105	106	106	102	98	91	93	93	97	101
1949-57	106	103	104	103	102	98	93	92	95	97	102	105
Minneapolis, No.2 White, 1949-57	104	102	102	101	101	98	95	93	96	99	104	105
						Barley						
Price received by farmers												
1922-41 4/	102	103	104	105	106	100	96	94	96	96	98	100
1949-57	105	103	103	102	100	96	96	95	97	99	101	103
Minneapolis, No.3												
1949-57	104	101	101	100	99	95	96	99	99	102	103	101
						Sorghum grain						
Price received by farmers												
1933-51 4/	98	97	102	104	106	106	106	103	101	94	90	93
1949-57	102	102	103	104	106	102	99	99	96	93	95	99

1/ Indexes of seasonal variation computed on the basis of prices in the calendar years for the periods shown. Based on the 12 month moving average, centered and adjusted to average 100 for the year. 2/ Feed Situation, July 1958, page 20. 3/ Demand and Price Structure For Corn and Total Feed Concentrates, Tech. Bul. 1061., page 50. 4/ Demand and Price Structure for Oats, Barley and Sorghum Grain, Tech. Bul. 1080, pages 78-82.

Table 12.- Corn, oats and barley: Indexes of seasonal variation in market prices, by weeks, 1949-57 1/

Week ended 2/	Corn, No. 3 Yellow Chicago	Oats, No.2 White Minneapolis	Barley, No. 3 Minneapolis
Jan. 7	100	105	103
14	99	104	104
21	99	103	103
28	98	103	103
Feb. 4	97	103	102
11	96	101	101
18	97	102	101
25	98	102	102
Mar. 4	97	102	102
11	98	102	103
18	98	101	101
25	99	101	100
Apr. 1	100	101	100
8	100	101	100
15	101	101	101
22	102	102	101
29	102	101	100
May 6	103	102	100
13	103	102	101
20	103	102	100
27	103	100	98
June 3	103	99	96
10	103	99	96
17	102	99	95
24	103	98	95
July 1	103	95	95
July 8	104	96	94
15	104	97	96
22	104	95	96
29	104	94	95
Aug. 5	104	95	98
12	104	94	101
19	102	93	99
26	102	93	99
Sept. 2	103	93	99
9	104	96	100
16	104	97	98
23	102	97	98
30	101	98	99
Oct. 7	99	98	100
14	96	98	101
21	94	100	102
28	93	102	103
Nov. 4	92	101	103
11	93	103	104
18	94	104	103
25	96	104	102
Dec. 2	98	104	102
9	99	105	100
16	99	105	101
23	99	104	102
30	99	103	102

1/ Computed on the basis of prices in the calendar years 1949-57. Based on ratios to the 52 week moving average, centered and adjusted to average 100 for the year.

2/ Dates shown apply to 1950 and 1955. In other years the weeks vary 1 or 2 days from those shown. The week ended January 2, 1953 was omitted to bring weeks for 1953-57 in alignment with 1949-52.

The low in the seasonal index of the monthly average prices of No. 3 Yellow corn at Chicago came in October and November (94 in each month) in the postwar years, just a month earlier than in the prewar period when the low of 95 came in November and December (table 11). The low in the seasonal pattern for mid-month prices received by farmers came in November in both periods. This difference results from a fairly sharp seasonal drop in corn prices in the postwar years in late October followed by some recovery in the last half of November. In prewar years, the decline came in November and extended into December. The mid-month prices would not reflect this change, but it is borne out by the seasonal movement of weekly prices. The weekly average prices of No. 3 Yellow corn at Chicago usually reached a low in late October or early November (table 12). By the end of November the Chicago price normally had increased about 4 percent and by the middle of December another 3 percent.

Thus, Chicago weekly corn prices reveal a fairly sharp decline during October with the seasonal low usually reached around the first of November, followed by increasing prices during November and December. Weekly prices, however, are no improvement over monthly prices in locating the seasonal high. The weekly corn prices reveal no real peak from May to mid-September. In this period the weekly seasonal indexes, based on prices during 1949-57, varied from 102 to 104 percent of the yearly average.

The monthly prices of No. 2 White oats at Minneapolis during 1949-57 reached a seasonal low in August and a high in December. The seasonal low in weekly prices was reached in late August, followed by a fairly sharp recovery in September. By December the weekly prices in the postwar years normally had about reached their high for the season.

The price of No. 3 barley at Minneapolis generally reached its seasonal low earlier in the year during 1949-57 than the average price received by farmers. While the seasonal pattern of farm prices was nearly flat from June to August, the index of the market prices reached a low in June and July and rose 3 or 4 percent by August. The weekly low in No. 3 barley prices in the postwar years normally was reached in the first half of July after which prices rose fairly rapidly, usually advancing about 5 or 6 percent by August. The weekly index for barley prices reveals no definite seasonal peak in prices for the postwar years. The seasonal high extended from late October to early March with the indexes of 102 to 104 for most weeks of this period. The index held at 100 to 101 through much of May, after which it dropped rather sharply to its seasonal low of 94 in early July.

REGIONAL CHANGES IN CORN ACREAGE

Corn acreage in the United States will sharply reverse the long-term downward trend this year if farmers carry out their March 1 plans. The total acreage for the country has declined steadily since the early thirties.

Table 13.- Corn: Acreage planted, total and with hybrid seed, specified regions, 1929-59

Year	North Central Region		Southern States 1/		Other States 2/		United States	
	Total acreage	Planted with hybrid seed	Total acreage	Planted with hybrid seed	Total acreage	Planted with hybrid seed	Total acreage	Planted with hybrid seed
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres
1929	63,203	---	31,303	---	4,624	---	99,130	---
1930	66,192	---	33,175	---	4,548	---	103,915	---
1931	69,121	---	35,160	---	5,083	---	109,364	---
1932	70,665	---	36,364	---	5,995	---	113,024	---
1933	68,388	143	36,019	---	5,423	---	109,830	143
1934	58,619	372	37,043	---	4,901	---	100,563	372
1935	58,592	1,140	36,362	---	5,020	---	99,974	1,140
1936	62,257	3,155	34,794	6	4,908	5	101,959	3,166
1937	58,962	7,578	33,409	31	4,803	23	97,174	7,632
1938	54,578	13,884	35,376	108	4,519	87	94,473	14,079
1939	52,115	20,110	35,231	301	4,293	207	91,639	20,618
1940	50,164	25,985	34,277	634	4,251	392	88,692	27,011
1941	49,790	32,356	32,809	1,129	4,238	649	86,837	34,134
1942	52,884	38,590	31,708	1,690	4,226	919	88,818	41,199
1943	58,618	45,797	31,659	2,400	4,064	1,231	94,341	49,428
1944	61,810	51,617	29,477	3,327	4,188	1,531	95,475	56,475
1945	58,783	51,787	26,684	4,284	3,794	1,707	89,261	57,778
1946	59,120	53,685	26,171	5,629	3,607	1,957	88,898	61,271
1947	56,693	52,591	24,976	7,009	3,369	2,076	85,038	61,676
1948	57,320	53,761	24,738	8,879	3,464	2,350	85,522	64,990
1949	59,133	55,725	24,062	9,611	3,543	2,565	86,738	67,901
1950	54,315	51,205	25,051	10,851	3,493	2,557	82,859	64,613
1951	56,988	54,192	22,843	11,137	3,444	2,560	83,275	67,889
1952	56,321	54,219	22,538	12,618	3,371	2,691	82,230	69,528
1953	57,845	55,609	20,377	12,147	3,352	2,790	81,574	70,546
1954	57,764	55,692	20,816	13,076	3,605	3,020	82,185	71,788
1955	57,545	55,785	19,781	13,473	3,771	3,208	81,097	72,466
1956	55,638	54,092	19,031	14,064	3,550	3,063	78,219	71,219
1957 3/	52,484	51,194	17,841	14,112	3,622	3,092	73,947	68,453
1958 3/	53,566	52,407	17,510	14,456	3,578	3,162	74,654	70,025
1959 4/	62,246		18,066		3,609		83,921	

1/ South Central and South Atlantic Regions.

2/ North Atlantic and Western Regions.

3/ Tentative revisions in hybrid acreages derived by applying the percentage of corn acreage planted with hybrid seed by States, published in July 1958, to all corn acreages planted by States as reported in the Annual Crop Summary in December 1958.

4/ Based on prospective plantings as of March 1.

The 9-million-acre increase this year brings the United States total back to near the level of 10 years ago. Nearly all of this increase will be in the North Central States where over 62 million acres is in prospect, the largest since 1936 (table 13). The prospective acreage in the South is up slightly from the past 2 years, breaking a downward trend that has been underway for more than 20 years.

Acreage Has Been Variable in North Central Region

Corn acreage in the North Central region has varied considerably over the past 30 years, while acreage in the South has trended steadily downward. During the 1930's, the acreage in the North Central region varied from a high of nearly 71 million acres in 1932 to 52 million in 1939. These sharp variations apparently reflected the influence of the acreage allotment program as well as droughts and the depression. Acreage climbed during the war years to nearly 62 million in 1944. Following the war, acreage declined to a level of around 56 or 57 million in most of the years from 1951 to 1956. Under the Acreage Reserve Program of 1956-58, acreage in the region dropped to 52.5 million acres, the lowest since 1941.

The removal of the acreage allotments and the Acreage Reserve Program this year brought a prospective sharp increase in the acreage for this area, along with reductions in oats, soybeans, sorghums and hay. In each of the North Central States, excepting the Dakotas and Wisconsin, prospective acreage increases ranged from 13 to 28 percent. In South Dakota an 8 percent increase is in prospect, in Wisconsin a 5 percent increase and in North Dakota about the same acreage as in 1958.

Downward Trend in the South

In the 16 southern States, the downward trend over the past 25 years has cut the total corn acreage there to about half what it was in the mid-thirties. If farmers in this area carry out their March 1 plans, they will plant a total of 18.1 million acres, up 3 percent from 1958 but only half the peak acreage planted in the area in 1932-36.

Each of the 8 States in the South Central region has reduced corn acreage substantially during the past 20 years (table 14). Oklahoma and Arkansas will plant less than a fifth the acreage this year that they planted in the late 1930's. Farmers in Texas and Louisiana have cut their corn acreage to about a third of that of 20 years ago and in Mississippi to less than half, while in Alabama, Tennessee and Kentucky acreages were reduced around 40 percent.

While sorghum acreage has increased in the South, only in Texas has sorghums replaced more than a fraction of the acreage taken out of corn. In Texas total sorghum acreage, including that harvested for silage, forage and sirup, as well as for grain, increased from about 5 or 6 million acres in the late 1930's to around 9 million acres in recent years. Much of this

Table 14.- Corn: Acreage planted in South Central States, 1937-59

Year	Kentucky	Tennessee	Alabama	Mississippi	Arkansas	Louisiana	Oklahoma	Texas	Total
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres
1937	2,723	2,783	3,370	2,700	2,190	1,507	1,712	4,795	21,780
1938	2,641	2,738	3,673	3,254	2,340	1,733	1,779	4,987	23,145
1939	2,641	2,714	3,673	3,254	2,350	1,733	1,888	4,987	23,240
1940	2,623	2,715	3,565	3,221	2,174	1,594	1,869	4,866	22,627
1941	2,605	2,641	3,289	3,060	2,044	1,482	1,850	4,760	21,731
1942	2,584	2,636	3,140	2,846	1,921	1,334	1,906	5,046	21,413
1943	2,520	2,610	3,225	2,761	1,863	1,307	1,925	4,776	20,987
1944	2,520	2,427	2,929	2,623	1,695	1,229	1,675	4,057	19,155
1945	2,192	2,136	2,814	2,466	1,424	1,106	1,407	3,394	16,939
1946	2,253	2,207	2,633	2,417	1,509	1,040	1,421	3,156	16,636
1947	2,185	2,200	2,651	2,320	1,388	990	1,165	2,809	15,708
1948	2,445	2,266	2,584	2,227	1,277	940	1,118	2,584	15,441
1949	2,396	2,153	2,567	2,182	1,175	790	1,152	2,426	14,841
1950	2,180	2,174	2,678	2,247	1,422	853	1,083	2,959	15,596
1951	2,180	2,065	2,536	1,910	1,052	725	1,029	2,249	13,746
1952	2,115	2,044	2,536	1,872	989	703	833	2,174	13,266
1953	1,969	1,819	2,322	1,666	781	605	508	1,942	11,612
1954	2,083	1,928	2,417	1,766	862	647	348	1,967	12,018
1955	1,941	1,774	2,276	1,642	672	647	349	2,083	11,384
1956	1,848	1,756	2,276	1,593	685	634	346	1,958	11,096
1957	1,589	1,545	2,249	1,577	548	628	256	1,743	10,135
1958	1,573	1,545	2,100	1,498	477	590	310	1,778	9,871
1959 1/	1,809	1,607	2,247	1,483	415	543	276	1,636	10,016

1/ March 1 prospective plantings.

Table 15.- Corn: Acreage planted in South Atlantic States, 1937-59

Year	Delaware	Maryland	Virginia	West Virginia	North Carolina	South Carolina	Georgia	Florida	Total
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres
1937	145	516	1,476	486	2,333	1,675	4,240	758	11,629
1938	145	500	1,387	431	2,477	1,861	4,687	743	12,231
1939	146	500	1,384	440	2,500	1,794	4,480	747	11,991
1940	143	500	1,366	418	2,468	1,772	4,246	737	11,650
1941	138	455	1,293	376	2,418	1,670	4,003	725	11,078
1942	137	457	1,320	368	2,309	1,478	3,515	711	10,295
1943	135	457	1,332	364	2,335	1,604	3,698	747	10,672
1944	143	505	1,306	350	2,319	1,524	3,443	732	10,322
1945	141	466	1,175	301	2,229	1,426	3,378	629	9,745
1946	139	458	1,089	298	2,193	1,452	3,246	660	9,535
1947	132	458	1,067	295	2,204	1,408	3,075	629	9,268
1948	130	467	1,058	286	2,248	1,422	3,044	642	9,297
1949	139	453	1,007	257	2,238	1,412	3,135	580	9,221
1950	139	448	973	241	2,282	1,452	3,295	625	9,455
1951	162	487	973	216	2,196	1,323	3,134	606	9,097
1952	181	517	973	206	2,223	1,297	3,225	650	9,272
1953	169	491	944	196	2,201	1,206	2,947	611	8,765
1954	173	512	920	202	2,194	1,154	3,044	599	8,798
1955	172	523	879	188	2,161	1,055	2,820	599	8,397
1956	152	481	824	171	1,982	1,002	2,736	587	7,935
1957	147	462	805	149	1,874	937	2,768	564	7,706
1958	134	450	775	152	1,877	937	2,733	581	7,639
1959 1/	165	508	829	152	2,008	937	2,870	581	8,050

1/ March 1 prospective plantings.

increase reflects a reduction in wheat and cotton and only partly a replacement of acreage taken out of corn. Acreage reductions also have occurred in the South Atlantic States, but in these States the declines have been more moderate.

A number of factors appear to be associated with declining corn acreage in the South. The trend toward soil conservation in farming has brought an increasing acreage of land into small grains, winter pasture, hay crops and other forages. The downward trend in horse and mule numbers also has reduced the requirement of grain feed for work stock. Increasing labor costs and declining manpower in some areas of the South also has encouraged production of crops requiring less labor.

Other areas of the country--the North Atlantic and Western States--are relatively minor in corn production, usually producing only about 5 percent of the United States total. The total corn acreage in these regions has been stable at around 3.4 to 3.8 million acres since 1945, averaging well below the 5.0 to 6.0 million acres in 1931 to 1935.

Table 16.- Production, stocks, and foreign trade in byproduct feeds, foreign trade in feed grains, and corn and barley processing, January-March, 1959 with comparisons 1/

Commodity	Production					Stocks 2/				
	1957-58 season 3/	Feb. 1958	1958-59			Oct. 1, 1957	Mar. 1, 1958	1959		
			Dec.	Jan.	Feb.			Jan. 1	Feb. 1	Mar. 1
	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons
Byproduct feeds										
Soybean cake and meal	8,284.3	628.1	818.2	872.6	800.0	54.7	73.4	55.3	68.2	87.7
Cottonseed cake and meal	1,922.2	186.4	267.2	262.1	214.2	209.7	224.7	78.5	79.6	103.8
Linseed cake and meal	435.3	36.4	39.3	41.7	30.5	63.7	43.3	9.7	7.1	4.3
Peanut cake and meal	45.4	3.7	6.5	6.8	5.8	3.2	1.5	2.8	2.5	2.8
Copra cake and meal	119.4	7.0	8.3	9.7	7.9	.7	3/	3/	3/	3/
Total	10,806.6	861.6	1,139.5	1,192.9	1,058.4	332.0	342.9	146.3	157.4	198.6
Corn gluten feed and meal	1,031.2	82.2	92.0	81.7	78.8	3/	3/	3/	3/	3/
Brewers' dried grains	225.9	16.4	16.1	17.1	14.9	4.0	3.2	2.8	2.9	2.0
Distillers' dried grains	279.4	26.0	33.7	30.6	29.0	2.4	2.0	2.4	3.8	5.0
Wheat millfeeds	4,676.1	372.2	390.1	399.8	346.0	3/	3/	3/	3/	3/
Rice millfeeds	242.1	15.5	15.1	19.1	17.0	3/	3/	3/	3/	3/
Alfalfa meal	1,222.9	15.5	24.1	24.4	21.1	441.5	225.2	277.6	189.2	132.1
Fish meal and solubles	282.0	2.4	17.8	4.0	2.8	3/	3/	3/	3/	3/
Dry or powdered skim milk	7.7	.6	.5	.6	.4	.6	.4	.3	.3	.3

Commodity	Foreign trade									
	Imports					Exports				
	1957-58 season 3/	Jan. 1958	1958-59			1957-58 season 3/	Jan. 1958	1958-59		
			Nov.	Dec.	Jan.			Nov.	Dec.	Jan.
	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons
Soybean cake and meal	1.4	0	0	0	0	300.0	38.5	64.4	54.5	55.8
Cottonseed cake and meal	71.6	4.2	11.9	11.8	15.9	7.2	.1	.2	3.7	.5
Linseed cake and meal	7.9	.2	.1	.3	.6	13.7	.1	2.7	4.4	3.1
Peanut cake and meal	0	0	0	0	0	1.8	3/	3/	3/	3/
Copra cake and meal	67.5	4.4	3.8	3.6	2.5	3/	3/	3/	3/	3/
Total	148.4	8.8	15.8	15.7	19.0	322.7	38.7	67.3	62.6	59.4
Wheat millfeeds	91.8	7.5	4.6	13.0	9.0	78.9	6.8	6.4	4.5	2.8
Fish meal and solubles	92.3	7.5	6.3	10.5	18.3	3/	3/	3/	3/	3/
Tankage	12.3	1.3	.7	.7	.4	3/	3/	3/	3/	3/
	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.
Feed grains										
Corn, including products	1,869	67	143	136	125	199,489	21,100	21,321	21,544	17,507
Oats, including oatmeal	24,532	1,536	201	206	125	28,019	1,570	2,100	3,122	4,040
Barley, including malt	24,375	1,054	1,608	1,979	584	91,775	9,011	7,135	12,912	11,492
Sorghum grain	3/	3/	3/	3/	3/	57,374	4,345	7,715	9,921	11,576

Commodity	Grain processing or use						
	1957-58 season 3/	1957-58		1958-59			
		December	January	October	November	December	January
	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.
Corn							
Wet-processing 4/	142,351	10,511	11,822	13,802	11,531	11,539	11,885
Distilled spirits and alcohol	27,455	2,423	2,573	3,180	2,874	3,213	3,099
Barley							
Malt liquors	75,810	5,078	5,790	5,784	4,899	5,793	5,387
Distilled spirits and alcohol	5,953	560	612	703	659	713	689

1/ Data compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior, and Price Waterhouse and Company, New York. 2/ At processors' plants. 3/ Not reported. 4/ Corn, wet processing February 1959, 11,847,000 bushels.

INDEX OF TABLES

Acreages of Feed Crops

	Table number	Page
Corn: Acreage planted, total and with hybrid seed, by regions, 1929-59	13	22
Corn: Acreage planted in the South Central States	14	24
Corn: Acreage planted in the South Atlantic States	15	24
Feed grains: Acreage, yield and production, 1950-59	2	5
Planted acreages of feed grains and related crops, 1948-59	3	8

Feed Supplies and Utilization

	Table number	Page
Feed concentrate supplies, total and per animal unit, 1950-59	4	8
Production, stocks and foreign trade in byproduct feeds; foreign trade and processing of feed grains, January-March 1959	16	26
Rations fed to milk cows, by regions, 1958	10	17

Feed Prices

	Table number	Page
Feed grains: Indexes of seasonal variation, monthly prices	11	19
Feed grains: Indexes of seasonal variation in market prices, by weeks	12	20
Prices of feed grains and byproduct feeds, by weeks, January-March, 1958 and 1959	6	12
Statistical summary: Prices, indexes and price ratios	1	2

Price Support Programs

	Table number	Page
Feed grains: National average price supports, 1951-59	5	10
Feed grains: Quantities placed under price support, 1957 and 1958 crops	9	16

Market Receipts

	Table number	Page
Corn: Receipts at principal markets, by grades, 1953-58	7	14
Feed grains: Receipts at primary markets, February 1959	8	14

U. S. Department of Agriculture
Washington 25, D. C.

Penalty for private use to avoid
payment of postage $300

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

NOTICE

If you no longer need this publication, check here ☐ return this sheet, and your name will be dropped from the mailing list.

If your address should be changed, write the new address on this sheet and return the whole sheet to:

Administrative Services Division (ML)
Agricultural Marketing Service
U. S. Department of Agriculture
Washington 25, D. C.

The Feed Situation is published six times a year. Release dates for the remaining 1959 issues are May 22, July 31, September 18 and November 6 (the Outlook issue).